

The Recruiting Edge

Departmental Affairs Division



WOMEN TRAFFIC OFFICER PROJECT (WTOP) 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Nearly thirty years ago, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) began the first ever Cadet Training Class (CTC) that included women in the cadet ranks. The class kicked off a two-year study called the "Women Traffic Officer Project" (WTOP). These women were to be thoroughly critiqued, beginning during cadet training, the break-in phase, the probationary first year, and the second year as non-probationary employees. At the conclusion of this two-year study it was to be determined whether women were suitable for the position of CHP Officers.

CTC IV-74 was definitely ground breaking for women in uniformed ranks in the CHP. In fact, the CHP set precedence nationwide by becoming the first law enforcement agency in the nation to enlist females to join its ranks as patrol officers.

Although many law enforcement agencies had female employees, none of those agencies offered women positions in sworn classifications. For many years, prior to 1974, women worked in

various civilian administrative classifications, including radio dispatcher positions.

Once the CHP announced it was seeking women to apply for the position of CHP Cadet/Officer, over 1,400 women applied for the position. Of the 1,400 female applicants, 127 passed the written and physical examinations. In September 1974, following the completion of a thorough background investigation, 41 women were selected to attend the CHP Academy's first male/female cadet training class.

On Monday, September 30, 1974, the CHP Academy opened its doors to the first female cadet trainees. Eighty-four cadets, including 41 women were sworn in as officers.



Commissioner Walter Pudinski stated, "The 41 women selected for the first female training class were considered the most qualified."

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CADETS!!!

The gears will be spinning again at the California Highway Patrol Academy with a cadet training class (CTC) scheduled to begin on Monday, January 5, 2004. Approximately 40 cadets will grace the Academy grounds bright and early Monday morning. CTC I-04 will graduate on July 9, 2004.

What about future classes?

Due to budget constraints beyond the CHP's control, no classes beyond the January 2004 class are scheduled at this time. The Department is not accepting applications at this time.

Applicants interested in the CHP can look forward to the hiring process beginning again sometime in late 2004, which could mean that cadet training classes would follow.

What happens to an applicant who was in the testing and selection process?

Individuals who are already in the testing and selection process will be contacted if they are going to move forward in the process. Primarily, individuals who have made it to the background portion of the selection process will continue through the process and await an Academy appointment date.

Continue mentoring your neighbors, friends, and family!!!



Future female cadets participate at the physical abilities examination.

CHP officers should encourage individuals who are interested in the CHP to maintain contact with CHP personnel. Individuals who were already in the testing process at the time of the hiring freeze may contact Area offices and participate in the ride-along program. Many CHP offices have continued the ride-along program.



On January 16, 1975, following 16 weeks of rigorous training, 27 women and 32 men graduated the CHP Academy. The new officers continued their journey becoming the first female traffic officers nationwide to work the road and issue traffic citations to the motoring public.

Although many of the WTOPpers have retired, 16 have remained active on the Department, five of them women. As the 30-year anniversary approaches, thoughts of the changes seen through the years pops into many peoples minds. However, one thing remains consistent; women made their mark in the CHP in 1974, set precedence, and paved the way for the future of the CHP. The doors of opportunity were opened.

CHP Explorers and Senior Volunteer Programs are two programs officers can utilize to generate interest in the Department. Contact your Division today to obtain further information regarding selection for the volunteer programs!!!

Contact your Division or Headquarters Recruitment Unit for the latest information on testing for CHP Cadet!!

Recruitment Resources
1-888-4A-CHP-JOB
1-877-WOMENCHP
WWW.CHP.CA.GOV

Applicant Study Guide

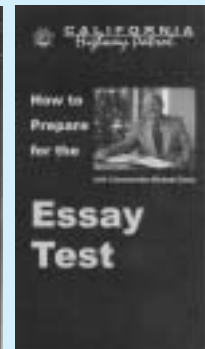


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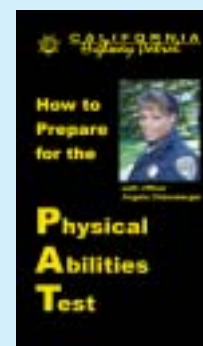
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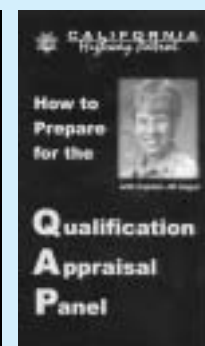
Recruitment Video



Essay Video



PAT Video



QAP Video



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